



General Assembly

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Agenda items 128 and 70 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/62/13) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General (a) to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar and to offer technical assistance to the Government in that regard; (b) to closely monitor the developments with regard to the violent incidents that took place, with the aim of preventing the resumption of violence; (c) to give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner; and (d) to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.



3. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/62/13). Paragraphs 8 to 11 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates that the costs of continuing the good-offices efforts through his Special Envoy for Myanmar for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2008) amount to \$781,900 net (\$865,100 gross).

4. These resources would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy including two support staff (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)); the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of a consultant; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. The Committee points out that these resource requirements are included as part of the proposals of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives for 2008 (see A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 2 to 13), which would, if approved, be charged against the total provision of \$604,060,100 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

5. With regard to the request contained in the last part of operative paragraph 6 (a), of the draft resolution, concerning technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated, according to the Secretary-General, within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Advisory Committee also notes that, with regard to the request contained in operative paragraph 6 (c), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Secretary-General, in his statement of programme budget implications, informed the Human Rights Council, upon adoption of its resolution S-5/1, that the estimated requirements of \$46,700 required to implement activities called for in the resolution would be absorbed within the appropriations approved for the biennium 2006-2007. The Secretary-General intends to inform the General Assembly on the estimated requirements in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolution S-5/1. The requirements fall under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

6. The Secretary-General indicates that, with regard to the biennium 2008-2009, no additional resources are requested for section 23, Human rights, at this juncture in the light of the continuing review by the Human Rights Council of its subsidiary machinery in response to General Assembly resolution 60/251. Should additional resources be required, a consolidated statement of requirements arising from the continuing review by the Council and potential absorptive capacity from reduced requirements arising from the amended programme of work under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 would be reported to the General Assembly.

7. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the course of action proposed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General.**



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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The right to development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49

Twentieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49 on the right to development (A/C.3/62/18).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6 and 39 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse the conclusions and recommendations adopted by consensus by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council at its eighth session and call for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors;

(b) Support the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development as renewed for a period of two years by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, with the recognition that the Working Group shall convene annual sessions of five working days and present its reports to the Council;

(c) Support the realization of the mandate of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, established within the framework of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed for a period of two years



by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, with the further recognition that the task force will convene annual sessions of seven working days and present its reports to the Working Group on the Right to Development;

(d) Stress the importance of endorsement of the road map outlined in paragraphs 52 to 54 of the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its eighth session (A/HRC/4/47), which would ensure that the criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnerships, as identified in Millennium Development Goal 8, prepared by the high-level task force and being progressively developed and refined by the Working Group, are extended to the other components of Millennium Development Goal 8 by no later than 2009;

(e) Invite the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Right to Development to present a verbal update to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

3. The activities and additional resource requirements related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement. Provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the implementation of activities related to operative paragraphs 2 and 6 of the draft resolution. The activities to be carried out under operative paragraphs 1 and 39 of the draft resolution, described in paragraph 4 of the statement, would give rise to additional requirements of \$47,000, which are to be accommodated within the resources proposed under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. With respect to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the annual two-day sessions of the high-level task force would require additional resources of \$74,300, which are also proposed to be accommodated from within the provisions of section 2 (\$63,300), section 23 (\$8,200) and section 28E (\$2,800) of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.

4. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly note that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49 would not entail additional resource requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 23, Human rights; and section 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Resort to use of the contingency fund would therefore not be required.



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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/C.5/62/17).
2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enable the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and rule of law in the Central African subregion.
3. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the statement, and information on the estimated resource requirements is provided in paragraphs 7 to 9. The Secretary-General estimates that the additional requirements for strengthening the capacity of the Centre would amount to \$520,100 net (\$573,600 gross) under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including \$381,100 for



posts and \$139,000 for non-post resources. The Secretary-General indicates that those resources cannot be accommodated from within existing resources and proposes that they be charged against the contingency fund, with an additional appropriation under the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.

4. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly requested the Secretary-General to ensure funding for the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa as an integral part of the regular budget for human rights, first in paragraph 132 of its resolution 56/253 and again in paragraph 3 of its resolution 61/158. The Advisory Committee has recommended that appropriate proposals be made to the Assembly at its sixty-second session for the full implementation of resolution 61/158, and requested that future budget submissions include a subsection on the requirements of the Subregional Centre.¹

5. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should implement paragraph 3 of resolution 61/158. In this connection, it notes that a total amount of \$112,835,400 is requested under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Upon request, the Committee was informed that total expenditure under section 23 for the programme budget for 2006-2007 was projected at \$81,528,300 against an appropriation of \$88,009,100. There is thus a projected underexpenditure of \$6,480,800, or 7.4 per cent. Given past patterns of expenditure, the Committee is of the view that the overall resources requested in the programme budget for 2008-2009 under section 23 should allow the Secretary-General to provide the additional amount of \$520,100 requested for the Subregional Centre.

6. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44, additional resources totalling \$573,600 would be required over and above the level of resources proposed for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as follows: \$520,100 under section 23, Human rights, and \$53,500 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under section 1, Income from staff assessment.

7. In view of its aforementioned observations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to accommodate the additional requirement of \$573,600 from within the resources provided for in the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 under section 23. The Committee further recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this mandate in the context of the performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/62/7), para. VI.18.*